

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY L/OES: STEPHEN J.BURTON

APPROVED BY ARA/APU-MR. SMITH

OES/OFA/MSO-MR. ERB(SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OCLR,

SUBJECT: R/V THOMAS G. THOMPSON RESEARCH CRUISE

REFS: STATE 3483, BUENOS AIRES 349

1. DEPT DOES NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND JURIDICAL BASIS OF ARGENTINE ASSERTION IN NOTE NO. 2490 REPORTED REFTEL THAT RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED BY R/V THOMPSON IN DRAKE PANAGE IS IN "WATERS WITHIN ARGENTINE JURISDICTION". THOMPSON ETA DRAKE PANAGE NEXT WEEK. DEPT DOES NOT WISH TO PROVOKE SEIZURE OF VESSEL. AT SAME TIME, DEPT DOES NOT WISH TO SEEK GOA CONSENT TO RESEARCH IN WATERS WE REGARD AS HIGH SEAS.

2. EMBOFF REQUESTED TO CONTACT BLANCO OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIAL TO INDICATE USG LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND SOLICIT EXPLANATION OF JURIDICAL BASIS OF GOA ASSERTION.

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PLEASE REPORT TO DEPT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

3. FYI. DEPT GUESSES WE MAY BE CAUGHT IN MIDDLE OF
ARGENTINE-CHILEAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE. IT IS POSSIBLE
ARGENTINE POSITION IS BASED ON LINE DRAWN BETWEEN ATLANTIC
AND PACIFIC WATERS, WHICH MAY BE AROUND 67 DEGREE WEST

LATITUDE. THOMPSON WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH EAST OF THAT
LINE, IN AREA USG WOULD REGARD AS HIGH SEAS IN ANY
EVENT. THUS, POSSIBILITY ARISES OF ARGENTINE
ACTION AGAINST THOMPSON FOR REASONS RELATED TO CHILE
AND NOT RPT NOT U.S. USG DOES NOT WISH TO APPEAR
TO TAKE SIDES IN DISPUTE, BUT HAD BEEN UNDER
IMPRESSION RESEARCH WOULD BE CONDUCTED ON CHILEAN
SIDE OF ANY REASONABLE DELIMITATION. THIS WAS
BEFORE WE WERE AWARE OF THE UNIQUE ISSUE IN
GOA-GOC DISPUTE END FYI. KISSINGER

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